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[Dated only as 3 December, the year can be fixed as 1865 from the reference to the Carey child]

Frances Hester to Fanny Bracher, 3 December 1865

Blackwood Park

Blackwood 3rd Dec

My dear Fanny

As I have not received a letter from you I thought I had better write, to let you see if you have quite forgotten me, I have not you. I am almost tired of writing before I begin yours as I have written a very long letter to my cousin Emily in New Zealand we have her likeness and her Mama's and Papa's and two of her aunts they are my dear papa's cousins. Papa is not at home he is gone in company with the wood carts as they are nearly loaded and our roads are not very good at present he expects to have about thirty bales of wool this season, all our shearing is over and twenty three bales are pressed. We are so very dull when our dear papa is away it does not seem like home.

Teddy and myself went for the mail yesterday we had a pleasant ride but it was rather too warm we have two side saddles now which enables two of us to go out. Mr Carey the surveyor takes photographs for friends, and as he is coming out here soon he has promised to bring his apparatus out and take all of our likenesses a short time ago Mrs Carey lost a little baby three weeks old and after it was dead Mr Carey took its likeness. Little Eva is standing beside me asking me who I am writing to. I must close this note now, with love from all my sisters and Teddy and Godfrey and dear Mama to your self dear Aunt and cousins accept the same your self

Believe me dear Fanny

Your loving cousin

Frances T Hester

Write soon